

March newsletter 2024

Welcome



Welcome back to a new term - a short one but a busy one. I hope you all had an enjoyable half term break. We have had many new children join us this term and St. Mary's family would like to say a huge welcome to them and their families.

Collective worship

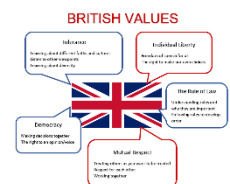
Our new value for this term is Acceptance. We began the term looking at The Creation Story and identified which part of the bible it comes from (Old Testament, book of Genesis). We then looked at the quote 'So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.' We discussed what makes humans special, how Christians believe they are produced in God's image, how we should appreciate and accept what makes us and others special and how Christians can live their lives the way they believe God intended.



We then looked at the story of Cornelius - Cornelius was not a Jew, but he loved and served God faithfully. When he met Peter it was unusual because, at that time, it was against the rules of the Jews for them to visit with Gentiles (people who were not Jew). Jews believed that they were the only people who could be a part of God's family because God told them that they were His chosen ones. When Peter went and visited Cornelius, Peter realised that God accepted people of all nations who feared him and did what was right. Peter accepted Cornelius because God asked him to and they became friends. God also asks us to accept others as He accepts us (Romans 15:7).

British values

Our British value for this term is mutual respect, a perfect compliment to Acceptance. We have previously learnt what mutual respect is and what it looks like. So far this term, we have looked at how different sports show mutual respect.



Spirituality

As a school we have been working on what spirituality means to us. We have decided to talk about spirituality using the following wording:

- Mirror Moments: Thinking about myself
- Door Moments: Thinking about others
- Window Moments: Thinking about the beauty of the world
- Candle Moments: Thinking beyond the things we can see



This is to help our children understand how to express how they feel and see the 'awe and wonder' of the world.

Safeguarding

As a school, all staff have safeguarding training every fortnight. This term we have learnt about the different types eating disorders and how to spot the signs. If you would like any advice on this, please ask Mrs. Reynolds.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

Parents Evening

Slots for Parents Evening are live on ParentMail. Please do book a visit in with your child's class teacher on one of the below dates. Please note that SEND slots are only available on Tuesday 26th.

Tuesday 26th March – 15:30-18:00hrs

Thursday 28th March – 17:00-20:00hrs

Sport

PE Kit

As you are aware pupils in Years 1-6 are required to attend school wearing PE kit on their designated PE days.



Earrings must be removed, and long hair tied back, children need to be able to do this themselves or arrive at school prepared.

Please note PE kit is a part of our uniform policy and should only include:

- Trainers or plimsolls – these must be appropriate for PE and have grip for indoor & outdoor activity
- Plain white T-shirt (school logo optional)
- Plain sky-blue jumper (school logo optional)
- Plain royal blue or navy shorts
- Plain royal blue or navy leggings or jogging bottoms.

PE is a valued part of our Pupil's education; we thank you for your support in ensuring they are suitably prepared for their physical education. If you are unsure which days your child will be completing their PE lessons, please contact their class teacher.

Healthy School Ethos

This term year 6 sports leaders launched our new 'skip 2 be fit' initiative.

They delivered an assembly to all pupils informing them of the history of skipping, the health benefits that skipping provides as well as demonstrated different ways to skip.

We are pleased to see it has had a great response from pupils in all years. Skipping ropes are now accessible at lunchtimes and breaktimes to allow pupils opportunity to practice, play and be physically active. Sports leaders continue to run their active lunchtimes sessions alongside skipping workshops.

They will be running different intra school skipping challenges and competition throughout the rest of the academic year.

School Sports Competitions

Our aim is to attend as many inter school competitions (a minimum of 5 competitions each term) to allow as opportunities for as many pupils as possible to attend and experience a variety of sports in both competitive and non-competitive environments.

We cannot deny that winning is always a great feeling, but more importantly we hope pupils who attend gain a sense of pride, increased self-esteem and desire to continue participating in sport.

We promote our schools and school games values at these events including Respect, Determination, Honesty, Passion, Self-Belief and Teamwork; our motto is "win, draw or lose we always show our values."

Since our last newsletter we have participated in a further 5 inter school competitions: KS1 New Age Kurling, KS2 New Age Kurling, Year 5/6 Gymnastics Finals, KS2 New Age Kurling Finals and Year 5/6 Basketball. Providing 'competitive' sporting experiences to a further 38 children.

Forthcoming Competitions

This term we look forward to attending Year 5/6 Netball, Year 2 Cricket, KS2 Cricket, Girls Cricket as well as a Net and Wall Games Festival.

Attendance of extra-curricular clubs will aid us in selecting/inviting pupils to attend the competitions.

We hope this will help to allow pupils to feel more confident, prepared, and knowledgeable when attending competitions.

Before and After School Sports Clubs

This term the following sports clubs are taking place:

Sport Club	Day / Time	Year Groups
KS2 Basketball	Monday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Years 3-6
Gymnastics - FULL	Tuesday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	All Years
KS2 Netball	Wednesday AM - 8:00-8:45am	Years 3-6
KS2 Dodgeball - FULL	Wednesday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	Years 3-6
KS2 Multi-Sports Club – invite only	Thursday AM – 8:00-8:45pm	Selected KS2
Target – (Archery, Boccia and New Age Kurling)	Friday AM - 8:00-8:45am	All Years
KS1 Dodgeball	Friday PM - 3:15-4:15pm	EYFS – Year 2

Holiday Clubs

Festival of Sport Holiday club will return to St Marys on 9th -11th April 10am-3pm.

Posters will be displayed around school for further information and to assist with booking, alternatively please visit www.prsportscoaching.co.uk

World book day

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with our World Book Day this year. The costumes were amazing, and it was so lovely to see so many of you join us for book and biscuits in the morning. The fun didn't end there though! The children had a fun filled day packed with books, reading and poetry. The morning kicked off with a footy and booky live quiz hosted by some of the country's best known football players. After that, classes took it in turn to visit St Mary's Book Bistro which was led by our wonderful librarians. During this book tasting session, children were paired with a child from a different year group and were given time to explore and 'taste' a range of books. Here is what some of the children said about bistro:



It's a good way to find books you like.

I liked looking at lots of different types of books.

It was good to read with other children.

It was 100% yummy!

In the afternoon, all classes were set a challenge to learn a poem for performance. The children had to learn the words and also work together to create actions to really make their performance come alive. At the end of the day, the whole school came together in the hall to watch each class perform and what a great job they all did!

Mental health week

In February we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week, with a week of activities to empower, equip and give a voice to children and young people, to raise awareness of mental health and the importance of taking care of it.



This year's theme was 'My Voice Matters', and children took part in different activities to highlight this, from learning about why we all need to feel heard, to how we can express our thoughts and feelings, and to being able to use our voice to change the world. Children also participated in creating posters to show why their voice matters.

The week culminated in a special 'Express Yourself' mufti day, where we saw so many wonderful outfits representing the amazing personalities, strengths and skills that our children have. Well done everyone for taking part.

Hair accessories

We love seeing how smart our children look, particularly with their hair accessories but please do ensure that these are in school colours (white and royal blue) or natural hair colours.



Sickness Policy

Please remember to keep your child off for 48 hours after any episodes of sickness or diarrhoea.

PTFA



PTFA News

Please like, share, and keep an eye on our [Facebook Page](#)

Email: stmarys.ptfa@yahoo.co.uk



❖ **Chocolate bingo**

- Back by popular demand on 22nd March
- Chocolate donations to be made on 15th March for MUFTI day
- Available to book on ParentMail now - £1 per person for an entrance ticket (bingo books to be purchased separately on the night)
- Doors open 5.30pm, eyes down at 6pm
- Bingo books will cost £3 for 2 tickets per game or £5 for 6 tickets per game
- Dabbers £1 each
- Raffle tickets will be available for £1 each and the draw will take place immediately after the last game
- Chocolate tombola £1 a go
- Come and join us for another fun night of bingo, raffle, tombola, hot dogs, nachos, sweets and a bar!

❖ **Rags2Riches clothing collection**

- ❖ Next collection is 18th June
- ❖ We welcome all clothing & accessories donations on Fridays at the school gates

❖ **Wildlife & garden areas maintenance**

- ❖ If anyone can spare a hand from time to time to help us maintain the wildlife & garden areas please let us know!
- ❖ All & any help welcome...

Next Meeting - Wednesday 17th April 7pm

We love to welcome new people, just come to reception.

We are an Inclusive school, so everyone is always welcome to read, attend or access anything listed in this section of the newsletter.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Individual Support Plans



Thank you for your continued support and engagement with the review meetings that we had last half term. We hope you find them as helpful as we do!

These reviews will then inform your child’s next ISP which will be sent home on **Monday 18th March 2024**.

Just a reminder that you can book in with me for a **SEND Parents’ Evening** session on **Tuesday 26th March**. This is completely optional and is for if there are things you would like to discuss, following our review meetings last half term.

Spotlight

At St. Mary’s, we have children with a wealth of different needs. This section of the newsletter will highlight a particular area of need and explore how you can help to support your child at home. Each newsletter, we will explore a different area of need. If you have a specific area you would like us to cover, please send your suggestions into the school office.

Spotlight on...Support for Families

Many parents have asked about additional support or training for better understanding their child’s needs. Below are a list of workshops and courses that can be accessed across the county for a range of needs.

Autism Central Virtual Workshops For

Autism Central Virtual Workshops for Parents and Carers

Would you like to learn more about ways to understand and support your child? Come along to our FREE online workshops, run by Autism Central, a Peer Educator programme supporting parents, carers and PAs of autistic people across the Midlands.

Tuesday 19 March 2024, 7pm to 9pm.

The session will cover understanding and supporting an anxious child, what is anxiety?, sources of stress and supportive strategies. **Events can be booked on the website**

[Midlands delivered by Contact and Ambitious about Autism | Autism Central](#)



Incredible Years Programme

Incredible Years is a parenting group, over a period of 9 sessions that last around an hour and a half each. A new course starts at the beginning of every term and focuses helpful tips and solutions to parenting issues, such as social, emotion and emotion coaching, routines, structure, rules and responsibility. The sessions run on a Thursday morning, at school, starting at 10.00am and finishing by 11.30am, starting from Thursday 18th April 2024. The sessions are group based; in which adults share their experiences, successes and difficulties with one another as they work through the programme. The session follows a similar structure each time, supplemented by the use of video aids to demonstrate the taught skill. If you would like any more information or have any questions about the course, you can contact the email below –

b.collins@stmarysprimarykettering.co.uk



SEND Support Service (SSS)

SSS offer a range of virtual and face-to-face courses and workshops to help parents understand and support their child’s Special Educational Need (SEN). These occur from September to July each year. These courses and workshops cover a range of different themes such as anger and emotions, puberty, food challenges and sensory difficulties. You can find these at <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/specialist-send-support-services/send-support-service-courses-parents-and-carers>

ERIC – The Children’s Bowel and Bladder Charity

ERIC is the national charity dedicated to improving children’s bowel and bladder health. Our mission is to reduce the impact of continence problems on children and their families. Online support for parents and carers led by staff from our expertly trained Family Services Team. These topic-based webinars are delivered live and designed to answer some of the most commonly asked questions that that come up on our Helpline and can be found at <https://eric.org.uk/family-events/>



WE OFFER SUPPORT WITH:

- Preparing for and attending meetings
- Writing letters
- Understanding reports
- The EHCP process and reviews
- Appeals and Tribunals
- Admissions and Exclusions
- POST 16 provision
- Working in partnership with schools and the Local Authority to develop positive relationships

CONTACT DETAILS:

📞 0300 373 2532

@ SENDiass@northnorthants.gov.uk

🌐 iassnorthants.co.uk



@NNCSENDIASS

